

Commissioners

MARISEL A. HERNANDEZ, Chair
WILLIAM J. KRESSE, Commissioner/Secretary
JONATHAN T. SWAIN, Commissioner
LANCE GOUGH, Executive Director



Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago

Draft Minutes of the

Special Board Meeting

February 19, 2019, 9:30 a.m.

69 West Washington Street, 8th Floor Conference Room, Chicago, Illinois 60602

Board Members:

Marisel A. Hernandez, Chair
William J. Kresse, Commissioner/Secretary
Jonathan T. Swain, Commissioner

Staff:

Lance Gough, Executive Director
Charles Holiday, Assistant Executive Director
Adam W. Lasker, General Counsel
James P. Allen, Communications Director
Peter Peso, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
LaCretia Dandridge, Human Resources Manager
Amanda Robledo, Acting Purchasing Agent
Bill Perez
Sarita Villarreal
Gary Ryczyn, Consultant
Michal Czech, Videographer
Trish Sheehy

Guests:

Helene Gabelnick, League of Women Voters of Chicago (LWV Chicago)
C. Betty Magness, Rainbow PUSH Coalition

- I. Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m.
- II. Roll Call: All members were present
- III. Consideration of Agenda: The agenda was accepted as presented.
- IV. Approval of Minutes: No minutes presented for approval.
- V. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Lance Gough reported as follows:

- This coming weekend is the "big push" for the election next Tuesday.
- Nursing Home voting will take place on Friday, Saturday and Monday.

- Last weekend the pretrial detainees voted. We had over 650 applications. It went well, with no complaints
- We have received a lower than usual amount of Vote by Mail (VBM) ballot returns. Communications Director Jim Allen will send emails to those VBM voters for whom we have an email address to remind them to return their ballot before the deadline. Because the majority of VBM voters applied on line, we have many of their email addresses. To date we have received a return of approximately one-third of the ballots (13,000) that were sent.
- Mr. Gough expressed concerned because:
 - As of yesterday 1,000 Election Supply Carriers (ESC) were still at the warehouse.
 - We have nine polling place vacancies. As a policy matter, If we don't get Vote Centers we will have to reduce the number of precincts. It is getting more and more difficult to secure polling places. We pay \$140.00 per polling place, which is insufficient for some proprietors as it costs them more to open up.
 - We are working with the Department of Justice (DoJ) regarding polling place accessibility; we have a 3:00 meeting today with other agencies.
- Pre-election Logic and Accuracy Test (Pre-LAT) is caught up. The warehouse is only working until 4:00 PM this week as they have caught up on the work and will be working long hours this weekend and on Election Day.
- Commissioner Swain asked how long it will take to get VBM ready for April. Mr. Gough said he will get back to the Board members after a meeting on potential ballot layout and preparation scheduled for tomorrow.
- The Chair suggested that an email go out reminding VBM applicants to return the ballot.
- The Chair asked what percentage of VBM voters are applying with email addresses. Mr. Allen stated that 70% of the applications came through the online application.
- There was a discussion on whether making Election Day a holiday or moving Election Day to a Saturday or Sunday would increase voter participation. Mr. Allen said that the turnout at EV sites on weekends and holidays are low as people don't spend holidays voting.

A. Assistant Executive Director Report

Assistant Executive Director Charles Holiday reported as follows:

- Mr. Holiday provided Judge of Election and Election Coordinator statistics including that we have 10,735 assigned judges.
- We currently have 46 precincts with less than three judges.
- There are six high school, and ten new and standby Judge of Election training sessions scheduled.

- The Judge of Election key pickup will be Friday at 69 W Washington. If the key judge does not pick up the key on Friday, they can pick up keys at the EV site in their assigned Ward on Saturday.
- ES&S and Al Chase of the Board's IT department are finalizing the data files and testing for e-poll books.
- The public test on 6th floor will take place on Thursday.
- Remote site training took place last weekend and meeting with receiving station supervisors this Friday.
- The Board's Lower level conference room A will be used from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday for the nation of Senegal's Presidential Election.
- The pre-election Election Central briefing will be at 9:30 AM on Sunday.
- Working with managers and staff to make sure that they have the staffing and supplies that they need.

B. Communications Director Report
Communication Director James Allen reported as follows:

- He is mostly handling media requests for data. We have approximately 1.58 million registered voters.

VI. Old Business

- A. Infrastructure Projects and Changes in Election Administration: We will return to this after the elections.
- B. Electronic Poll Books: Doing well.
- C. Voting Equipment : on hold until after the election.
- D. Legislation (Mr. Lasker)
 - Omnibus bill for election items. All legislative items on our list has been discussed, including election centers, and use of ballot envelope to update signatures.
 - Commissioner Kresse inquired about the status of Automatic Voter Registration (AVR). Mr. Lasker responded that we are waiting for the Secretary of State to get "REAL ID" implemented.

VII. New Business

A. Professional Services Agreement between the Chicago Board of Elections and Michael P. Murphy.

Besides working Election Day, Mr. Murphy performs other matters, such as the ongoing recruiting and training of investigator supervisors. He is also reviewing security processes and is working with the Board to develop the security portion

of the written contingency plan. Commissioner Kresse confirmed that the written contingency plan will be delivered by end of year.

Commissioner Kresse moved to approve a Professional Services Agreement between the Chicago Board of Elections and Michael P. Murphy for the term of January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 at the rate of \$90 per hour not to exceed \$20,000. Commissioner Swain seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote of the Board.

B. Reconsideration of apparent-conformity disqualification of the "Assessment Limits" referendum in Precinct 38 of Ward 48.

Mr. Lasker asked that the Board defer this item at the request of the proponent who was unable to attend this meeting. Mr. Lasker asked to move it to March 12 Board meeting. The Board agreed to defer the item.

C. Resolution to authorize disposal of materials from the 2017 special election in the 4th Ward.

D. Mr. Lasker explained that this was a routine item that complies with federal law regarding disposal of materials. (Due to the March 2016 election still being in litigation, we cannot dispose of those documents.) Disposal of materials from the 2017 special election in the 4th Ward is necessary due to the need for room at the warehouse.

Commissioner Swain moved to adopt the Resolution. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed and the Resolution was adopted by a 3:0 vote of the Board.

VIII. Legal Report

- Nursing Home voting has an Election Central/hotline. We have Attorneys lined up for Nursing Home Election Central.
- We have the responses of two-thirds of the invited attorneys for Election Day Election Central. We are contacting the remaining third for responses.
- We have received favorable rulings from the Circuit Court on all of the Judicial Review cases.
- Three cases are in the Appellate Court including the two City Clerk candidate cases. We have placed notices in all EV sites regarding this matter. We expect we will be getting a ruling from Appellate Court by the end of the work week.
- The 29th ward Aldermanic case is also in the Appellate Court. Hopefully by the end of the week we will get a decision from that court.

IX. Financial Report: None.

X. Public Comment: None.

XI. Executive Session: Not needed.

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XII. Adjournment: The Board moved to adjourn until February 26th at 7:00 a.m. The meeting was adjourned at 9:59a.m.

Submitted,



Commissioner William J. Kresse
Secretary